

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A medical catheter assembly comprising:

(a) a medical catheter, said medical catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a longitudinal bore, said distal end being shaped to define an internal bolster; and

(b) an inner sleeve, said inner sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, at least a portion of said inner sleeve being removably disposed within said longitudinal bore of said medical catheter; and

(c) a body, said body having a base and a sleeve, said base having a transverse bore, said sleeve extending upwardly from said base and having a longitudinal bore, said longitudinal bore of said sleeve being aligned with said transverse bore of said base, said proximal end of said medical catheter being inserted up through said transverse bore of said base and said longitudinal bore of said sleeve and then inverted over the top of said sleeve.

2. (Currently amended) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a body adapted for use as an external bolster, said medical catheter being secured to said body wherein the top of said sleeve is shaped to include an external barb over which said proximal end of said medical catheter is inverted.

3. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner sleeve is sized to form a seal with the inside surface of said medical catheter.

4. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner sleeve is sized so as not to form a seal with the inside surface of said medical catheter, said medical

catheter assembly further comprising a ring, said ring being mounted around said inner sleeve and forming a seal with the inside surface of said medical catheter.

5. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner sleeve is sized to extend at least the entire length of said longitudinal bore of said medical catheter.

6. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner sleeve has an open proximal end, an open distal end and a longitudinal bore extending from said open proximal end to said open distal end.

7. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner sleeve has an open proximal end, a closed distal end, a side port and a channel extending from said open proximal end to said side port.

8. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 7 wherein said closed distal end is rounded.

9. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a fitting, said fitting having an open proximal end and an open distal end, said open distal end of said fitting being coupled to said proximal end of said inner sleeve in such a way as to permit materials to pass between said fitting and said inner sleeve.

10. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein said open proximal end of said fitting is adapted to receive a tube.

11. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein said open proximal end of said fitting is adapted to receive a medical luer.

12. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 11 wherein said open proximal end of said fitting is externally threaded to matingly engage an internally threaded sleeve surrounding a medical luer.

13. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9 further comprising a plug, said plug being removably insertable into said open proximal end of said fitting to seal shut said fitting.

14. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 13 wherein said plug is connected to said fitting by a strap.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim ~~15~~¹⁶ further comprising a cap mounted on said sleeve and over the inverted proximal end of said medical catheter for securing the inverted proximal end of the medical catheter to said sleeve.

17. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 16 wherein said cap has an opening, said opening being aligned with said longitudinal bore of said sleeve.

18. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a fitting mounted on said cap, said fitting having an open proximal end and an open distal end, said open distal end of said fitting being coupled to said proximal end of said inner sleeve in such a way as to permit materials to pass between said fitting and said inner sleeve.

19. (Withdrawn) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein said cap further comprises a collar, said distal end of said fitting being screwed into said collar.

20. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said medical catheter is a gastrostomy feeding tube.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The A medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 15 comprising:~~

(a) a medical catheter, said medical catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a longitudinal bore, said distal end being shaped to define an internal bolster;

(b) an inner sleeve, said inner sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, at least a portion of said inner sleeve being removably disposed within said longitudinal bore of said medical catheter;

(c) a body, said body having a base and a sleeve, said base having a transverse bore, said sleeve extending upwardly from said base and having a longitudinal bore, said longitudinal bore of said sleeve being aligned with said transverse bore of said base, said proximal end of said medical catheter being inserted up through said transverse bore of said base and said longitudinal bore of said sleeve and then inverted over the top of said sleeve, wherein said sleeve further comprises a transverse slot, said transverse slot intersecting said longitudinal bore, said medical catheter assembly further comprising; and

(d) a clamp mounted on said base and movable within said transverse slot between a first position in which said clamp is adapted to transversely compress to closure the medical catheter when the inner sleeve is removed therefrom and a second position in which said clamp is not adapted to transversely compress the medical catheter.

22. (Original) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein said medical catheter assembly is a low profile PEG device.

Claims 23-38 (Canceled).

39. (New) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 16 wherein said cap has an internal thread, wherein said sleeve has an external thread and wherein said cap is removably screwed onto said sleeve by threaded engagement of said internal thread and said external thread.

40. (New) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 17 further comprising a plug removably insertable into said opening in said cap, said plug being connected to said cap by a strap.

41. (New) The medical catheter assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein said clamp is slidably mounted within said transverse slot and has a transverse opening, said transverse opening having a wide circular portion and a narrow slit portion, said narrow slit portion being aligned with said longitudinal bore of said sleeve in said first position, said wide circular portion being aligned with said longitudinal bore in said second position.